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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
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Agenda item 6

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 21. Human rights

1. At its 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 13 October, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations noted the substantial increase of the workload mandated by the General Assembly and supported the increased resources proposed for the Centre for Human Rights. A number of other delegations were of the view that the increase proposed was inadequate and would not match the increased workload of the Centre. Some others, while recognizing the importance of the activities carried out by the Centre, voiced their concern over the expansion of this sector, indicating that it had benefited from substantial allocations under previous budgets. Some delegations expressed the opinion that additional requirements should be met through redeployment from other areas.

3. Some delegations expressed doubts relating to the new structure of the Centre, referred to in paragraph 21.4, from the point of view of its conformity with its mandate.

4. A number of delegations emphasized that the provision of increased resources for the programme should not affect the level of resources required for the programmes in the economic and social sectors.

5. Some delegations were of the opinion that longer-term solutions would be required to deal with the increased workload of the Centre for Human Rights.

6. Some delegations expressed the view that the technical cooperation activities were not adequately emphasized in the proposed programme of work. Other delegations questioned the proposed level of resources under subprogrammes 2, 3 and 4 and felt that the additional resources were not equally distributed among subprogrammes. A number of delegations questioned the designation of low priority for activities under subprogramme 4.

7. Some delegations considered that the programme of work of the Centre regarding the coordination of all human rights activities and the integration of human rights concerns into economic and social development activities were not legislatively justified. In their opinion the activities relating to the economic and social areas should be reflected in the other sections of the budget.

8. A number of delegations noted that the activities regarding the right to development were not adequately reflected in the proposed programme of work. A number of delegations considered that basic economic and social rights such as housing were not adequately reflected.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee expressed its disappointment that the recommendations contained in the evaluation report on the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1992/3) had not been taken into account during the preparation of this budget section.

10. The Committee was of the opinion that the increased responsibility and workload of the Centre for Human Rights should be matched with an adequate increase in resources, due respect being given to the broad priorities set in the medium-term plan.

11. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narratives of section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

12. The Committee noted that proposals concerning the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights, requiring additional resources, would be submitted at a later date.